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*mirum*, though so far as I can learn, the editors have not so taken it—certainly not Munro.

Lucr. vi. 1014: quo minus est mirum, quod dicitur ex elementis,  
corpora si nequeunt e ferro plura coorta  
in vacuum ferri, quin anulus ipse sequatur.

If we make the *quin* clause depend on *mirum*, the meaning of *minus est mirum* clearly is "it is not strange," "it is not unthinkable," "there is nothing to prevent one's thinking," "there is no doubt." The comparison with *nimirum* is at once suggested. For our present purpose the frequently occurring ironical force of *nimirum* should also be remembered.

If, now, we compare this sentence from Lucretius with one of our *mirum quin* sentences, omitting consideration of the irony as being a rhetorical matter, it appears that we need only a *negative* with *mirum* to make the constructions the same. The negative idea is at once supplied if we consider the *mirum quin* sentences to be interrogative. I should, therefore, place an interrogation point after each of these sentences and for a translation of *Amph.* 750, to show the construction, use something like this: "Is there any doubt but that he will contradict you, his master?" And this implies, "There is no doubt but that he will contradict you." "Why of course he would contradict you."

It will not be thought that I am using the lone sentence from Lucretius as the main support of my theory. The *non dubium est quin* sentences and such sentences as *nemo deterrebit quin sit* ("No one will keep me from thinking") show the development of the *quin* clause which appears in the *mirum quin* clauses also. The word *nimirum* shows the meaning which can be attached to *mirum* when used with a negative. The negative force is supplied if the *mirum quin* sentences are taken as interrogative.

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#### NOTE ON EUGIPPIUS

In the new Pauly-Wissowa *Real Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft s.v.* "Eugippius" [Vol. VI 1, 1907] the statement is made that "the best text edition" of both his works is that of P. Knoell in the *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum* IX 1, 2, 1885-86, while no mention at all is made of the later and authoritative edition of the *Vita Sancti Severini* by Mommsen [Berlin, 1898].

In the case of so important a historical source as this record by an eyewitness of the conditions in Noricum at the critical period when the Roman outposts were gradually yielding before the final barbarian onslaughts, we are fortunate indeed to possess a text by so thoroughgoing a scholar as Mommsen. His edition rests upon a broader manuscript foundation than any that preceded it [see *Hermes* XXXII 3, 1897, pp. 454-68, and XXXIII

1, 1898, pp. 160-67, *Eugippiana* by Mommsen, and the introduction to his edition], and his investigations have laid a sure foundation for the text. [So Manitius in the *Berliner philologische Wochenschrift*, 1899, No. 15, p. 460; and see also Pfeilschifter in the *Wochenschrift für klassische Philologie*, 1899, No. 6, p. 155.]

Knoell's edition, on the other hand, is based on a smaller number of manuscripts, of generally lesser importance than those used by Mommsen and, as Sanday states, the editor has in some passages "shown a misplaced ingenuity of suspicion which resorts to far-fetched explanations for that which is plain enough as it stands." [See the *Classical Review*, 1887, I 8, p. 224.]

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### COMMUNICATION

In a thesis recently presented to the University of Michigan I have reopened the question of the act-division in Plautus. I have thrown overboard the existing act-division and have discovered certain criteria which are of service in locating the divisions as they probably were made by Plautus. These criteria are (1) announced departure of the actors present on the stage; (2) no clue given as to the identity of the oncoming actor or actors; (3) undoubted vacant stage; (4) monologues just before or after the break. Not all of these criteria are always existent at the place in question, but in the very large majority of cases they are in force. I have considered also the divisions in Menander without regard to the occurrence of the word ΧΟΡΟΥ. The title of the thesis is *The Divisions in the Plays of Plautus*, and it will probably be published this summer or in the early autumn.

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